

The year 2020 marks 40 years since the appointment of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians by President Jimmy Carter in 1980. That Commission's report, entitled *Personal Justice Denied*, affirmed what we already knew: that the mass internment of Japanese Americans was the product of racism and not driven by any actual national security risk. In 1988, Congress passed, and President Ronald Reagan signed into law, the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which formally apologized and established restitution for the internment of Japanese Americans.

Yet from this dark period in our history emerged great acts of courage and patriotism that helped make our country a more perfect union. Just months after President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, thousands of Japanese Americans volunteered to join the war effort to join their comrades who had served earlier in the Hawaii National Guard, leading to formation of the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, later combined. Nicknamed the "Purple Heart Battalion," the 100th/442nd became the single-most decorated unit of its size in U.S. military history. Thousands more Japanese Americans served in the all-Japanese American 552nd Field Artillery Battalion and Japanese American Unit of the Military Intelligence Service.

Last year, I had the honor of traveling to the town of Bruyères, France, liberated by the 100th/442nd in the fall of 1944 at terrible cost, to represent our Congress at the 75th anniversary of liberation. There, I was moved by the powerful memory of these Japanese American soldiers, which included my wife's uncle, PFC Sadao Hikida, their courage and ferocity in freeing this town from Nazi oppression and rescuing the "Lost Battalion" and the enduring friendships they built with the people of Bruyères.

In Bruyères, I also recounted the personal impact that two veterans of the 100th/442nd had on my own life and career. It was *Journey to Washington*, the memoir of Medal of Honor recipient and U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye, that first inspired me to consider a career in elected office. After graduating from college, I worked three years for Congressman (and later Senator) Spark Matsunaga, another veteran of the 100th/442nd, who has served as a lifetime role model for me and so many others.

The courage and patriotism of Japanese Americans also extended to the home front. Japanese American citizens fought against the injustice of Executive Order 9066 and challenged it in court, leading to the infamous *Korematsu v. United States* decision. That decision was only recently reversed by the U.S. Supreme Court.

In the decades since, Japanese Americans have accomplished so much and contributed so greatly to our country through their service and achievements in government, the military, science and technology, arts and culture, business and more. I especially recognize the Japanese Americans of Hawaii who help make our home state the wonderfully rich and diverse place it is.

I am proud to join my colleagues in this House in recognizing the U.S.-Japan alliance and commit myself to continued support for the historic friendship and amity between our peoples. And I am equally proud to represent and support the descendants of all those who

came to this country from Japan in search of a better life, retaining the best of the rich cultural heritage of their ancestral country in generations of contribution and achievement since.

RECOGNITION OF EMPLOYEES OF  
THE OFFICERS AND INSPECTOR  
GENERAL OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES WITH 25  
YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE  
HOUSE

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, Ranking Member RODNEY DAVIS and I wish to recognize today a special group of dedicated and outstanding employees of the Officers (Clerk of the House, Sergeant at Arms, and Chief Administrative Officer) and of the Inspector General of the U.S. House of Representatives, and congratulate those who have reached the milestone of 25 years of service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

These remarkable and steadfast employees are an amazing asset for the House of Representatives. The work they accomplish is essential to keeping the operations and services of the House running efficiently and effectively. The employees we acknowledge today are commended for their hard work, dedication, professionalism, and teamwork; support of House Members, their staffs, and their constituents; and for their contributions day-in and day-out to the overall operations of the House. These employees, whose work is often performed behind the scenes, possess a wide range of responsibilities and skills that support the legislative process, ensure the security of this great institution, maintain our technology and service infrastructure, and contribute to more efficient and productive House support operations. These devoted employees have accomplished many great and important things in a diverse range of activities, and the House of Representatives, its Members, its staff, and the American public are better served because of them.

We recognize and honor the individuals named below for 25 years of loyal service to the House. Collectively, the employees listed below have provided 100 years of service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Anne Binsted, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Kenneth Burch, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Philip Hamner, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Cynthia Hibbs, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

On behalf of the entire House community, I want to once again congratulate, acknowledge, and thank these employees for their professionalism and commitment to the U.S. House of Representatives as a whole, and in particular to their respective House Officer, the Inspector General, and collaboratively across these organizations. Their long hours, hard work, diverse skills, and team spirit are invaluable, and their years of unwavering service and dedication to the House set an example for their colleagues and raises the bar for the

employees who will follow in their footsteps. I applaud all our honorees, and I am proud to stand before you and our great nation on their behalf to recognize the importance of their public service.

STEVE DOMINE: A CAREER OF  
SERVICE TO STEARNS COUNTY

**HON. TOM EMMER**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Mr. EMMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Steve Domine, President of Minnesota Community Banking at Stearns Bank National Association. After 43 years in banking and 33 years at Stearns Bank, Steve announced his retirement in July.

Steve describes his career as having served nearly every position at the bank, starting as a teller and eventually being promoted to managing several community bank locations.

In his tenure with Stearns Bank, Steve has helped small businesses across our state grow and prosper.

I thank Steve and wish him good luck on his next chapter.

HONORING COUNCILMEMBER GINA  
BELFORTE

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rohnert Park City Councilmember Gina Belforte for more than a decade of service to our community. As we mark her retirement, it is important to recognize her contributions to the City of Rohnert Park and the greater North Bay.

Councilmember Belforte was first elected in 2008 and has served three terms with honor and integrity, including terms as mayor and vice mayor. Throughout her years in office, she has worked hard to stabilize the city budget while maintaining essential services, and has always strived to give a voice to the underrepresented. She has also been a regional leader as the Sonoma County appointee to the Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District and as a member of the Sonoma Clean Power Board of Directors. Through her passion and commitment, Councilmember Belforte has ensured a stronger, brighter future for Rohnert Park and our greater community.

Aside from her noteworthy record as a public servant, Councilmember Belforte is a well-regarded business leader. In recognition of her success in the face of barriers that exist for woman-owned enterprises, she was awarded the Women's Initiative for Self-Employment Woman Entrepreneur of the Year award in 2010. Using her business acumen for charitable causes, she has also served with distinction as the President of both Sonoma County Adult and Youth Development and the Rotary Club of Rohnert Park—Cotati. Although she is retiring from public service, her impact on our community will continue.

Madam Speaker, Councilmember Gina Belforte is an exceptional public servant, a